

National Intelligence Council

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8 January 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PCC Meeting on El Salvador, 29 December 1989

1. Assistant Secretary Aronson initially chaired the meeting, with Ambassador Walker also in attendance. The purpose of the PCC was to explore options for the government of El Salvador to head off domestic and international criticism of its perceived inaction in the face of the recent guerrilla offensive and the murders of the Jesuits. AS Aronson underscored the fact that US assistance to El Salvador will come under strong attack when Congress reconvenes.

2. The discussion focused on measures President Cristiani could take to regain the political initiative. These include the removal of incompetent officers and human rights abusers, an offer of new talks with the insurgents, lifting the state of siege and encouragement of political participation by the non-violent left, and reforms of the legal system. Ambassador Walker noted that he will be pressing Cristiani on all these counts.

3. While D/ALA and I provided some substantive background on the current situation in El Salvador, there was only limited discussion of intelligence issues. ARA Central American Director Sullivan, and others, voiced an interest in more reporting on human rights abuses and the far right.

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[REDACTED] At the conclusion of the meeting, Sullivan stated that he intended to convene a weekly PCC meeting on Central American matters.

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Approved for Release

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